

43rd ASSEMBLY DISTRICT • ASSEMBLY DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS CHAIR

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Jorgensen: Republican Silence on Indiana Bigotry Disappointing

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MADISON – Assembly Democratic Caucus Chair and State Representative Andy Jorgensen (D-Milton) today called on his colleagues to support Assembly Resolution 7, denouncing the bigotry of Indiana's so-called "Religious Freedom Restoration Act." The proposal disappointingly failed along party lines, by a vote of 63-36.

"This legislation in Indiana has led some to feel as though they are being treated as second-class citizens. And, Indiana's economy stands to suffer as a result, with businesses like Apple and Angie's List harshly criticizing the bill, and Connecticut banning state travel there," said Jorgensen. "For so many reasons, Wisconsin cannot and must not follow in Indiana's footsteps."

Jorgensen called, especially, on each of the co-authors of a proposed constitutional amendment (AJR 43/SJR 38) from 2013, which would have legally protected businesses and other organizations that choose to exclude certain people from programs or facility access or withhold benefits from employees based on a "sincerely held religious belief." Not one of the 13 members would answer Jorgensen, when he asked if the proposal would be reintroduced this session.

"Your silence speaks volumes," said Jorgensen. "But, let me also be clear: I am an ally. I care for my brothers and sisters in the LGBT community and that's why I cannot accept legislation that will subject them to hate or bigotry, under the guise of religious freedom."

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